EXHIBIT ARTICLE / **1911–1914**

Who’s Who in India

The lives a Lucknow press put on record

Original Press article, pp. 17–18 · Eighteen lives, pp. 20–24 · 1911, p. 9 · 1914, p. 12 · Jaunpur, p. 16

At the end of Satyabala Devi Desai’s entry, the reader gets an address in Rampur. By then she has taken us a considerable distance. She played the vina for audiences in Lucknow, Lahore and Madras. She lectured on Indian music abroad. Most remarkably, the 1914 account credits her with setting nearly four thousand pieces of classical music down in notation in her own hand. It even finds room for her sketches of the Ganges. She was about twenty-one when the account appeared.

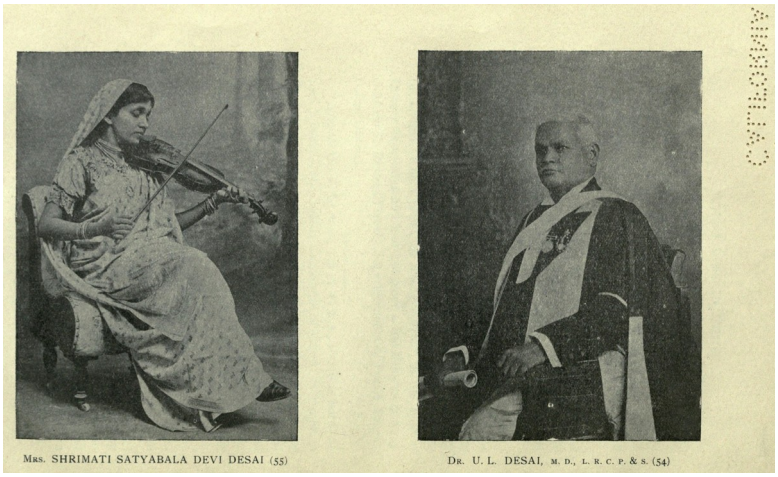


Plate facing p. 55 in the 1914 Popular Edition. Satyabala Devi Desai holds a violin at left. Dr U. L. Desai, physician at Rampur, appears at right. View original

Her biographer calls her a “scientific musician”. It is a description worth pausing over. A concert ended when the audience went home. Writing the notes gave another musician a means of studying a performance long afterwards. The little biography has done something similar for Desai. A reader in Lucknow today can still learn what she did with a pen as well as with an instrument.

The book that preserves her name is *Who’s Who in India*. Its publisher was the Newal Kishore Press of Lucknow, whose English imprint on these title pages reads “Newul Kishore Press”. The Coronation Edition bears the date 1911. A first supplement followed in June 1912 and a second in June 1914. The three publications catch people in mid-career. Look past the honours after their names and you can meet the engineer who tackled brackish wells, discover where a woman could obtain legal advice, and see how a family printing house understood its own place in India.

IN THE BOOKS Second Supplement (1914), pp. 55–56, Satyabala Devi Desai, and preface dated June 1914. Coronation Edition (1911), vol. II, title page.

The publisher among his subjects

The directory has an unusual answer to the question of who made it. Turn to page 169 of the United Provinces section and the proprietor himself is there. Rai Bahadur Prag Narain Bhargava had studied at Canning College in Lucknow and served an apprenticeship with his father, Munshi Newal Kishore. His entry places the printing press alongside an Urdu newspaper, ironworks and an ice factory. It also lists a directorship in a paper mill. A reader setting out to find a publisher has stumbled upon a piece of Lucknow's industrial history.



Three generations, as labelled in the 1911 volume. Prag Narain Bhargava, proprietor, appears at left, Munshi Newal Kishore in the centre, and Bishen Narain Bhargava at right. View original

Munshi Newal Kishore founded the Press in 1858 and died in 1895. By the time his son undertook the directory, it could draw on decades of work across languages. The son's entry remembers an Urdu translation of a medical work by Ibn Sina, known in English as Avicenna, and the founder's patronage of the Urdu novel *Fasana-e-Azad*. The Press's notice at the back of the book names its branches in Cawnpore, now Kanpur, and Lahore. It describes supplying printed work to railways and princely states and selling inexpensive translations to students. Booksellers, government purchasers, scholars and newspaper readers all came within its reach.

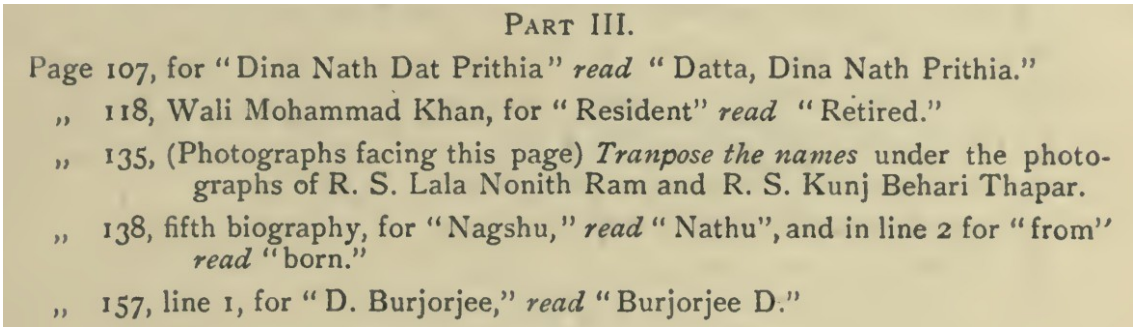
Prag Narain signed the 1914 preface in Lucknow. He thanked the people who had helped assemble the volume and explained that readers and patrons wanted an update. He wanted people elsewhere in India, and abroad, to know more about those whose work had earned recognition. The making of the books left other signatures too. The first supplement names Manohar Lal Bhargava as its printer. The family plate at the back of the 1911 volume places the founder between his son and grandson, so that a reader can put faces to the succession.

IN THE BOOKS Coronation Edition, vol. II, Part IV, pp. 169–170, Prag Narain Bhargava, and the closing press notice and family plate. First Supplement (1912), imprint. Second Supplement, preface. Heidelberg University Library, Naval Kishore Press collection.

A coronation and two corrections

At the Delhi Durbar on 12 December 1911, George V and Queen Mary appeared before an assembly of princes, officials and invited spectators. It was there that the transfer of the imperial capital from Calcutta to Delhi was announced. The Lucknow Press marked the occasion in print. Its principal work arranged lives by region and rank. The 1912 supplement brought together the recipients of the Durbar honours with an illustrated account of the royal visit, beginning with the arrival of the royal yacht *Medina* at Bombay on 2 December. Someone who bought the supplement for the spectacle could also use it to look up the person who had received a title.

The supplement opened with corrections to the principal work. In Part I of the original, one passage said that a person could manage something when it ought to have said advise. The distinction matters to anyone trying to establish who could make a decision. A second instruction concerned two men pictured opposite page 135 of Part III. Their names had been printed under the wrong portraits. The Press told readers to exchange the captions. More than a century later, that small act of editorial repair still determines whose face a family might recognise.



PART III.

Page 107, for "Dina Nath Dat Prithia" *read* "Datta, Dina Nath Prithia."

„ 118, Wali Mohammad Khan, for "Resident" *read* "Retired."

„ 135, (Photographs facing this page) *Tranpose the names* under the photographs of R. S. Lala Nonith Ram and R. S. Kunj Behari Thapar.

„ 138, fifth biography, for "Nagshu," *read* "Nathu", and in line 2 for "from" *read* "born."

„ 157, line 1, for "D. Burjorjee," *read* "Burjorjee D."

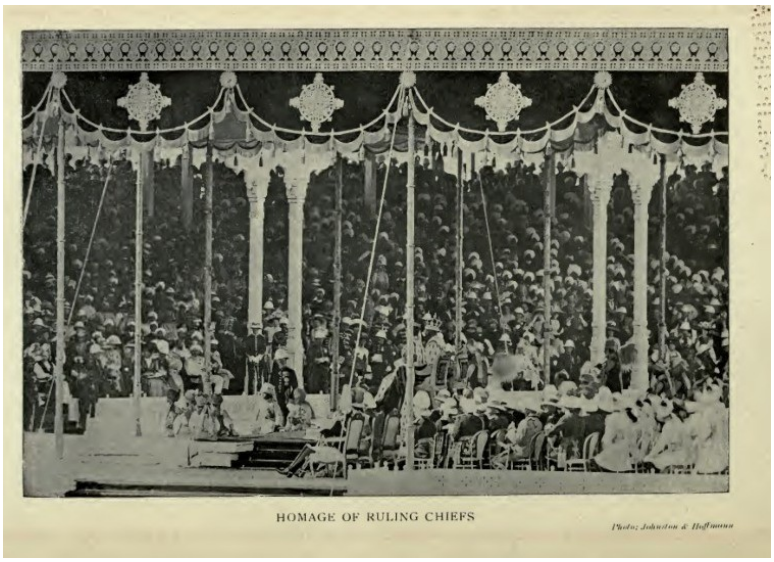
The 1912 corrections leaf. The middle instruction tells readers to exchange the captions beneath the two portraits facing p. 135 of Part III. View original

The books assumed a reader willing to move back and forth. The opening entry in 1914 introduces Kunwar Bam Bahadur Shah of Kheri, educated at Canning College and active in the administration of the Khairigarh estate. For the family history it sends the reader back to page 88 of Part IV. There, in the principal work, the entry is under Rani Surat Kunwar. Follow that direction and the centre of the story shifts. The younger man's career leads back to a woman who held a hereditary title and whose address the earlier volume gives as Singahi, Kheri.

IN THE BOOKS Coronation Edition, vol. II, Part IV, pp. 88–89, Surat Kunwar. First Supplement, title page, The Royal Visit to India, p. 1, and Addenda and Corrigenda, Parts I and III. Second Supplement, pp. 1–2, Bam Bahadur Shah. Royal Collection Trust, The Imperial Crown of India.

Who put the Durbar together

The 1912 supplement lets a reader enter the Delhi Durbar twice. In the opening account the scene is viewed from the amphitheatre. The King speaks, the ruling chiefs advance in order, and the Nizam of Hyderabad leads the homage. The second way in is through the biographies. Turn to page 160 and there is a man from Lucknow whose services the Durbar Committee borrowed from Gwalior.



“Homage of Ruling Chiefs”, photographed by Johnston & Hoffmann. Plate from the royal visit account in the 1912 Popular Edition. View original

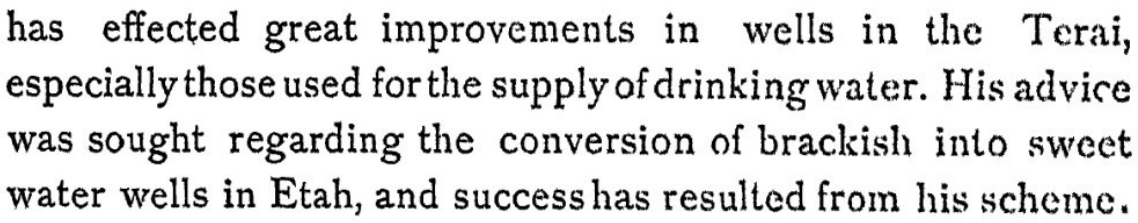
Chunilal Tulsiram had begun in the Government Telegraph Department. After a spell in the Gwalior stores he became superintendent of the Maharaja’s palace gardens and bunds, the embankments that held back water. The supplement says he received the title of Rai Saheb for his work at Delhi. It gives no account of what he planted or built there. What it does preserve is the route by which a Lucknow schoolboy acquired responsibilities in Gwalior and a place in the making of an imperial ceremony. For a visitor interested in gardens or the work behind a public event, his is a name worth taking away.

Other notices updated careers the Press had already documented. Page 61 records that physicist Jagadish Chandra Bose had received the insignia of Companion of the Order of the Star of India. For his work it directs readers to page 57 of the original Bengal section. There they could find an instrument he designed to study electric waves and a list of publications on how plants respond to stimuli. Readers who owned both volumes could follow the evidence from a medal back to an experiment.

IN THE BOOKS First Supplement (1912), The Durbar, Supplementary Biographies, p. 61, Jagdish Chandra Bose, and p. 160, Chunilal Tulsiram. Coronation Edition, vol. II, Part VIII, p. 57, Jagdish Chandra Bose.

The work behind a title

Under title-holders in the United Provinces is a man whose most telling achievement lay underground. Ahmad Husain Faridi had trained at Roorkee and worked on railway bridges at Sukkur and Garhmuktesar, and on Government House at Naini Tal. What earned him the title of Khan Saheb in 1906, according to his entry, was his work on water supply. He improved drinking-water wells in the Terai. In Etah he was asked what could be done about wells yielding brackish water. The directory records that his scheme succeeded. It gives the engineer his due and leaves an enticing question for the next researcher. What did he change in those wells?


has effected great improvements in wells in the Terai, especially those used for the supply of drinking water. His advice was sought regarding the conversion of brackish into sweet water wells in Etah, and success has resulted from his scheme.

Detail of Faridi's 1911 entry. It distinguishes drinking water in the Terai from the problem of brackish wells at Etah. View original

On the next page, Lucknow's municipal commissioner Mohammad Ghulam Husain Khan appears with the same title. Before he sat on the municipal board, he had personally helped vaccinate people. Later he became vice-chairman of its public health subcommittee. The entry follows his descent back to a prime minister of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula, then ends with his taste for horticulture and driving. The last detail does something a list of office-holders seldom can. It gives us a glimpse of how a Lucknow public servant chose to spend his own time.

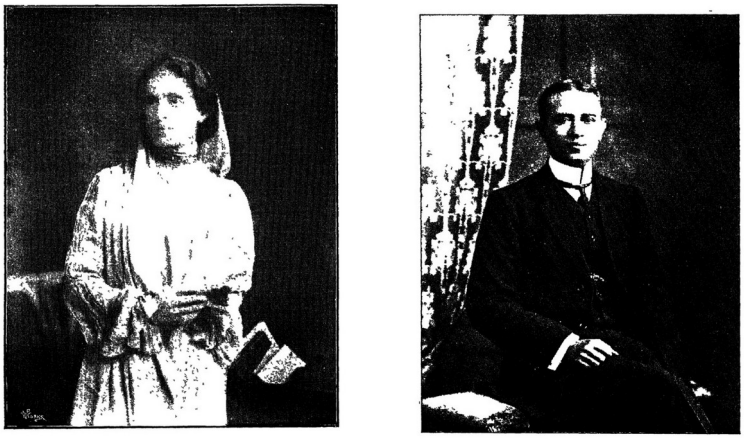
Some working lives get only three lines. Allah Din, from Sialkot in Punjab, was a bridge jamadar at the Madras Harbour Works. The 1914 supplement gives his post and the month his title was conferred. From those few words one can trace a working life between places now in Pakistan and India. About the bridge, the crew and Allah Din's part in the job, the reader is left to look elsewhere. Set beside Faridi's account, the brevity of the notice is itself a fact about whose technical work the directory could describe in detail.

IN THE BOOKS Coronation Edition, vol. II, Part IV, pp. 202–203, Ahmad Husain Faridi and Mohammad Ghulam Husain Khan. Second Supplement, p. 163, Allah Din.

A house in Poona and a missing name in Rangpur

The 1914 sketch of Ramabai Ranade begins, as many readers of its day might have expected, by identifying her as a judge's widow. A page later we learn what she did with the house in Poona, now Pune, where she lived after his death. It housed the local Sevasadan, the women's service organisation she led. She also went regularly to the Central Jail to teach women to read, write and count. During the famine of 1911–12 she and three other women went to Palanpur to distribute relief. Read through to those details and the house changes character. It becomes a place from which women organised work across a city and beyond it.

In the Bengal section, Cornelia Sorabji's short entry records a different kind of access. In 1904 she became legal adviser to women observing purdah whose affairs came under the Bengal Court of Wards. Her education at Oxford, her public service medal and her book *Between the Twilights* all fit into the same few lines. Her clients are present only as a group. Yet their need for advice explains why that post existed, and why access to a woman trained in law could matter to a family's affairs.



MISS CORNELIA SORABJI (111) MR. MAZHAR-UL-HAQ (123)

Cornelia Sorabji and Mazhar-ul-Haq share a portrait plate in the 1911 Bengal section. The numbers beneath their names direct the reader to their biographies. View original

Occasionally the book brings us close to a woman and then loses her name altogether. Jadabeswar Tarkaratna of Rangpur, a Sanskrit scholar and dramatist, is praised for supporting women's education. The entry lists several of his publications by title. Of his wife it says only that she was "an authoress of some distinction". Which books did she write? Under what name could a reader ask for them? The directory gives Satyabala Desai a portrait and a record of thousands of pieces of music. For the writer in Rangpur, that single sentence is the lead it leaves us.

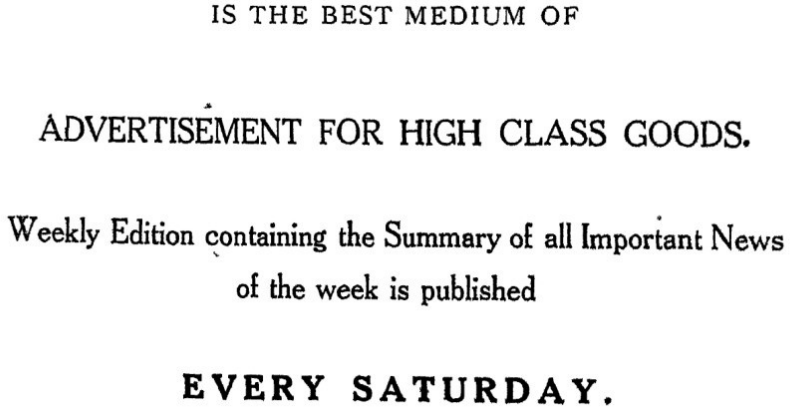
IN THE BOOKS Second Supplement, pp. 111–113, Ramabai Ranade, and pp. 55–56, Satyabala Devi Desai. Coronation Edition, vol. II, Part VIII, Cornelia Sorabji, and Part V, p. 10, Jadabeswar Tarkaratna.

Reading before the outcome was known

The June 1914 volume gives us Rabindranath Tagore when his 1913 Nobel Prize for Literature was still news. Alongside the prize it describes his school at Santiniketan, near the place it calls Bolepur. Its readers learnt that about two hundred pupils were taught in the open air and that Tagore liked to swim and row. The university at Santiniketan still lay in the future. The man on these pages is a practising teacher and poet with a school large enough for its pupils to be counted.

The 1911 portrait of Gopal Krishna Gokhale preserves another kind of present tense. It follows a teacher of history and political economy at Fergusson College into public life, recounts his evidence before the Welby Commission on Indian expenditure and recalls a budget speech in which he proposed relief for cultivators. The writer admires a speaker able to inspire an audience without inflaming it. In that choice of praise one hears the political taste of the directory. The Press's own notice was quite open about the value it placed on loyalty to British rule. Gokhale's arguments about public money are there for a reader to follow, alongside a judgment about how such arguments ought to sound.

At the back of the volume, the index and the Press's account of itself give way to advertisements. An advertisement for its Urdu daily, *Oudh Akhbar*, offers a Saturday summary of the week's news and invites advertisers with expensive goods to sell. Suddenly we can see someone on the other side of the page. A publisher in Lucknow imagined a reader who might consult a national directory, follow the week in Urdu and place an order with an advertiser. That reader, as much as any medal or coronation, belongs in the history these books have kept.


IS THE BEST MEDIUM OF

ADVERTISEMENT FOR HIGH CLASS GOODS.

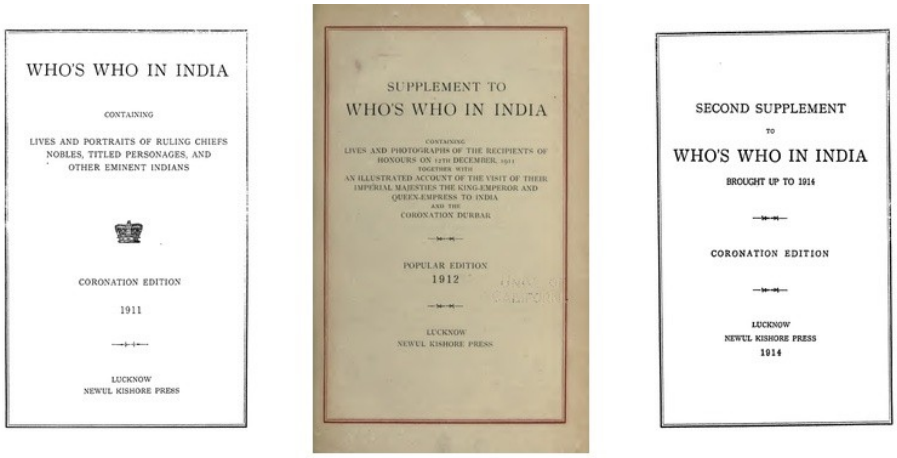
Weekly Edition containing the Summary of all Important News of the week is published

EVERY SATURDAY.

Detail of the Oudh Akhbar advertisement at the back of the 1911 volume. The English-language notice sought advertisers for an Urdu paper. View original

IN THE BOOKS Second Supplement, pp. 80–82, Rabindranath Tagore. Coronation Edition, vol. II, Part VII, pp. 71–73, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and unpaginated Oudh Akhbar advertisement. Nobel Prize records and Visva-Bharati's history corroborate the award and school chronology.

The books on display



Title pages, from left to right. The 1911 and 1914 Coronation Editions flank the 1912 Popular Edition. Each carries the Lucknow imprint. View original

The Coronation Edition, 1911

Who's Who in India, vol. II. Lucknow, Newul Kishore Press. The museum's supplied transcription opens with the continuation of the United Provinces in Part IV. The digitised copy is from the Rashtrapati Bhavan Library, via the Digital Library of India. Read volume II

The first supplement, June 1912

Supplement to Who's Who in India. Lucknow, Newul Kishore Press. The supplied text and the digitised Popular Edition preserve the royal visit, Durbar honours and corrections. The title, printer and signed preface are on scan pages 11–13 in the 328-page University of California copy. Download the scan · Turn the pages

The second supplement, June 1914

Second Supplement to Who's Who in India, Brought up to 1914. Lucknow, Newul Kishore Press. The supplied text and the President's Secretariat Library scan identify the Coronation Edition. The University of California Popular Edition preserves the same preface and the Desai portrait reproduced here. Read the Coronation Edition · Read the Popular Edition

Heidelberg University Library

Naval Kishore Press digital collection. Background on the founding of the publishing house and the dates of Munshi Newal Kishore's life. View collection

Royal Collection Trust

The Imperial Crown of India. Background on the 1911 Delhi Durbar and the transfer of the capital. View object

Nobel Prize and Visva-Bharati

The 1913 award to Tagore. Visva-Bharati's institutional history dates the school to 1901 and the university to 1921. View award · University history

EDITION GUIDE / 1911

The original Who's Who in India

How a Lucknow publisher gathered the lives of a subcontinent in 1911

The principal work occupied two volumes. The first volume shown here bears the label Edition de Luxe. The museum's supplied text corresponds to the second volume of the Coronation Edition. Both title pages date the work to 1911 and identify the publisher as Newul Kishore Press, Lucknow.

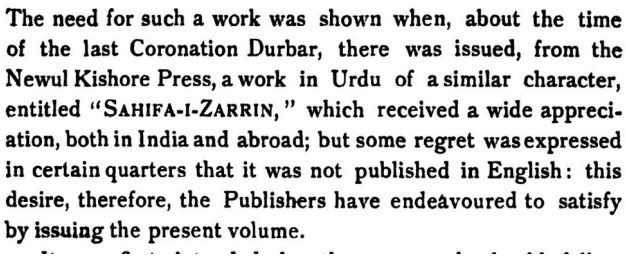
The first Indian life in the 1911 directory belongs to a man whose reign was barely three months old. Mir Osman Ali Khan had succeeded his father as Nizam of Hyderabad on 29 August. The compiler could give his titles and reproduce part of his installation address, yet acknowledged that little was known of the new ruler's personality. Several pages of family history follow. At the head of a book devoted to eminent people stands a young man whose public life had scarcely begun.

That difference between what a publisher could establish and what readers wanted to know runs through *Who's Who in India*. In Lucknow, Rai Bahadur Prag Narain Bhargava had only a few months to bring out an English directory for the Delhi Coronation Durbar. Among the lives he assembled were a ruler responsible for a flour mill, a doctor measuring schoolchildren's eyesight and a lawyer who once waited at a Red Sea port for the fare to London. Each has something to tell us about how people moved, worked and came to public notice in 1911.

The Urdu book behind the English one

Bhargava signed his preface in Lucknow on 1 December 1911. He traced the English book to an earlier experiment at the family press. Around the previous Delhi Durbar, it had issued an Urdu work called Sahifa-i-Zarrin. A surviving copy from the Rampur Raza Library is catalogued under the title Saheefa-e-Zarrin, with the date 1902. Readers had asked why the work had never appeared in English. When the Press took up that request in July 1911, it set out to enlarge the earlier book and bring the lives up to date.

The preface lets a visitor follow a biography into type. The Press sent prospectuses to people it considered distinguished. It consulted published reference works and received information from individuals. Some replies reached Lucknow so late that entries already in the printers' hands had to be called back. Bhargava asked readers to send corrections, especially to the spelling of names. A misspelt family name could defeat the very purpose of the index. The corrections issued the following June show how long the work of identifying people continued after the books left the press.



The need for such a work was shown when, about the time of the last Coronation Durbar, there was issued, from the Newul Kishore Press, a work in Urdu of a similar character, entitled "SAHIFA-I-ZARRIN," which received a wide appreciation, both in India and abroad; but some regret was expressed in certain quarters that it was not published in English: this desire, therefore, the Publishers have endeavoured to satisfy by issuing the present volume.

Prag Narain Bhargava names the earlier Urdu Sahifa-i-Zarrin in the preface to Volume I, p. 2. Detail of the 1911 Edition de Luxe. View original

Volume I, dedication and preface, pp. 1–3. The Urdu predecessor is catalogued by Rekhta from the Rampur Raza Library copy, 1902.

The business of governing Bhopal

Sultan Jahan Begum of Bhopal appears under the Central India Agency. The first sentences establish who held power. She had succeeded her mother, Shah Jahan Begum, in 1901 and personally directed the affairs of state. Her eldest son assisted her. A reader encountering the word Begum as a courtly title can see here precisely what authority this particular woman exercised.

The notice records educational and medical institutions she opened for women, then turns to a state undertaking that combined a cotton gin, sawmill, grass press and flour mill. The four trades occupy less than a sentence. They are worth reading slowly. Cotton had to be separated from its seeds, timber sawn and grain ground. Such everyday work entered this record because the state ran the machinery. The directory preserves the ruler's name and the uses of the mill. The names of the people who worked there would have to be sought in other records.

BHOPAL.—HER HIGHNESS NAWAB SULTAN JAHAN BEGUM, G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., *Begum of—a Ruling Chief;* was born on July 9th, 1858, and succeeded her mother, Nawab Shah Jahan Begum, on June 17th, 1901. The Begum personally directs the affairs of her State, assisted by Nawab Mohammad Nasir-ullah Khan, her eldest son. In 1874 she was married to Ahmad Ali Khan, a member of the Afghan clan, the Mirzai Khel, from which the Bhopal family is descended. She has taken a deep interest in all that concerns the welfare of her subjects, especially the women of the State, for whom she has opened many educational and medical institutions. A combined cotton ginning factory, saw mill, grass press, and flour mill is worked by the State; and trade and agriculture are fostered and encouraged by Her Highness. The Begum was

The opening of the Bhopal biography identifies Sultan Jahan Begum as ruling chief and describes the women's institutions and industries of her state. Volume I, Part I, p. 25. View original

Volume I, Part I, Central India Agency, Bhopal, pp. 25–28, especially p. 25.

An eye test in a schoolroom

Farther on in the same part, the heading changes from ruling houses to the officials who served in the states. Page 151 introduces Dr S. V. Ramaswamy Iyengar of Bangalore. He trained in Madras and gained medical qualifications in Edinburgh and Glasgow. His appointments took him from hospital work into the Maharani's Girls' School as a science teacher, back to the city hospital, and subsequently into an eye infirmary.

In 1901 he travelled through India gathering statistics on the eyesight of schoolchildren. His notice connects that investigation with his Madras doctorate. It gives no totals or measurements, but the choice of subjects is revealing. This physician had treated patients who came to a hospital. His survey carried the medical question into schools, where children's eyesight could be studied across a group. The job title printed beside his name, Government Oculist, meant a government eye specialist. Those two words give little hint of the journeys behind them.

Volume I, Part I, Officials, p. 151, S. V. Ramaswamy Iyengar.

A bank manager and a reader of inscriptions

In the second volume, a career could span institutions that a modern reader might think belonged to different worlds. Ram Saran Das managed the Oudh Commercial Bank in Fyzabad, studied at Canning College in Lucknow and served on a university board for Sanskrit studies. His entry also gives him a place on the Lucknow Museum Committee. To someone writing a history of the city's museums, that last appointment opens a line of inquiry that the heading Rai Bahadur scarcely suggests.

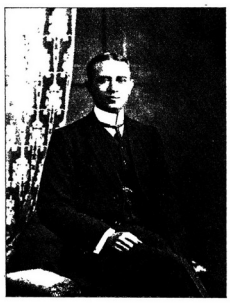
Turn to the Central Provinces and Hira Lal's career opens another. He served as a school inspector, worked on famine duties in 1897 and 1900 and took part in the censuses of 1901 and 1911. His notice also credits him with contributions to Epigraphia Indica, a publication devoted to inscriptions. The official who helped count the living also studied what earlier generations had recorded on stone or metal. The detail survives because one short biography kept his scholarship alongside his government appointments.

Volume II, Part IV, pp. 171–172, Ram Saran Das. Part VI, pp. 21–22, Hira Lal.

Twenty rupees and a passage to London

One of the most personal stories appears close to the end of the Bengal section. Mazhar-ul-Haq had studied in Patna and at Canning College in Lucknow. His family had resisted his wish to study in England. In 1888 he boarded a pilgrim steamer from Bombay to Aden with twenty rupees in his pocket. At Aden he waited three months for money from his relatives. The printed account dates his arrival in London to 15 September. By carrying the story past departure, the directory preserves a practical difficulty that often disappears from an account of an overseas education. A place in the next chapter of his life depended on the arrival of a remittance.

His friends in London called him a bookworm. He spent time at the British Museum and the Middle Temple Library and was called to the Bar in 1891. Back in India he later helped administer famine relief in Saran and served in municipal government at Chhapra. The entry credits improved municipal finances with making a market costing Rs. 20,000 possible. The imperial legislator's title heads the page. Farther down are the twenty rupees on which he left home and the market that a town could afford. Between those two sums, a reader begins to see the shape of a life.



MR. MAZHAR-UL-HAQ (123)

Mazhar-ul-Haq, detail of a portrait plate in the Bengal section of the 1911 Coronation Edition. The number 123 in the caption directs the reader to his biography. View original

Volume II, Part VIII, Eminent Men, pp. 123–124, Mazhar-ul-Haq. The volume pairs his portrait with Cornelia Sorabji's on an earlier plate.

EDITION GUIDE / 1914

The Second Supplement of 1914

A Lucknow editor, a Calcutta chemist and a Hyderabad poet in the pages of Who's Who in India

Second Supplement to Who's Who in India, Brought up to 1914. Coronation Edition. Published by the Newal Kishore Press, Lucknow, whose title-page imprint reads "Newul Kishore Press". Manohar Lal Bhargava is named as printer. Rai Bahadur Prag Narain Bhargava signed the preface in Lucknow in June 1914. The Rashtrapati Bhavan Library copy has 330 scanned pages, including the plates and index.

What happens to a book of living people once it leaves the printer? A judge takes a new post. A newspaper editor receives an honour. Someone who merited a few lines three years earlier now requires a page. Writing from Lucknow in June 1914, Prag Narain Bhargava said that patrons had been asking for another instalment of *Who's Who in India* since the first supplement appeared in June 1912. He wanted readers in India and overseas to be able to find these people.

The volume opens in Kheri with Kunwar Bam Bahadur Shah. Before the reader has finished the first paragraph, the Press gives a direction to an older book. For the family history, turn to page 88 of Part IV of the principal work, where the entry is under Rani Surat Kunwar. Someone who kept the earlier volume could now read one estate through the lives of two people. The same editorial device works on a smaller scale in the Press's own city.

The newspaper office with a reading room

Look up Ganga Prasad Varma on page 62. The editor of The Advocate was also senior vice-president of the Lucknow Municipal Board and a member of the provincial legislature. These are familiar ingredients in a directory entry. What has changed since the original notice? On the next page we learn that he received the title of Rai Bahadur in June 1912. Between the two pages comes his portrait, seated beside a small table, with the page number of his entry beneath his name.

Follow the reference back to Part IV, page 217, of the 1911 volume and a Lucknow street comes into view. Varma had represented Saadatganj ward on the municipal board. The account credited him with a park, a clock tower and a fountain in Aminabad. At his Lucknow offices he maintained a free library and reading room. He had founded the weekly Hindustani in 1883. For a visitor walking through Lucknow's printing quarter today, the reading room is perhaps the detail to keep. Even someone who could not afford a newspaper of their own had a place where they could read.



R. B. GANGA PRASAD VARMA (62) Dr. SATISH CHANDRA BANNERJI (63)

Ganga Prasad Varma of Lucknow at left and lawyer Satish Chandra Bannerji at right. Their names and printed page references appear beneath their portraits in the 1914 Coronation Edition. View original

Second Supplement, pp. 62–63, Ganga Prasad Varma and facing plate. Compare Coronation Edition, 1911, vol. II, Part IV, p. 217, Ganga Prasad Varma.

A chemist reads his way back to school

Prafulla Chandra Ray's entry in the Bengal pages begins at a village school kept up by his father. The family moved to Calcutta to educate the children. A prolonged illness interrupted Ray's schooling, but the household had a well-stocked library. His biographer recalled him saying how much he had learnt while he was too unwell to attend class. For once, the most formative stage in a distinguished education took place at home.

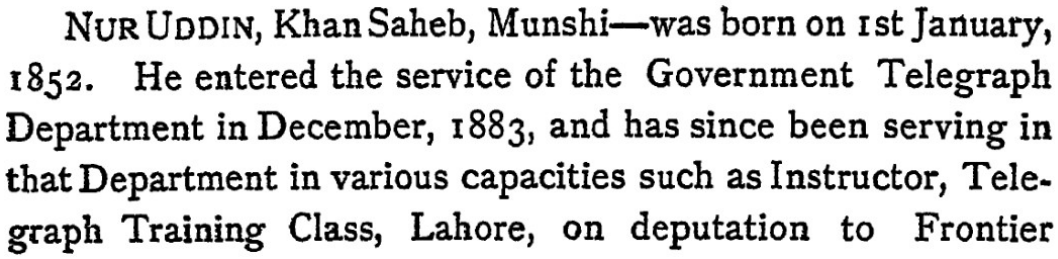
Later, at Presidency College in Calcutta, he investigated Indian fats and oils and published research on the compounds produced when nitric acid acts on mercury. The profile also names his two-volume history of Indian chemistry and the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works. These details give three distinct meanings to the word chemist in this life. Ray could work an experiment at a bench, recover an older tradition from texts and help put chemistry to work in a manufacturing concern. The directory's closing address in Calcutta belonged to a figure active in all three worlds.

Second Supplement, pp. 87–88, Prafulla Chandra Ray.

Two men who kept the telegraph running

A telegraph message arrived without the names of the people who carried it. Page 128 supplies one. Nur Uddin had taught at the telegraph training class in Lahore, staffed frontier offices and served in the camps of viceroys. After duty at the Delhi Durbar of 1903, he went with the Seistan Arbitration Commission and took charge of several telegraph offices. By the time this volume appeared, a correspondent could reach him in charge of the government telegraph office at Patiala.

On page 170 another telegraph officer, Pritamdas Hukumat Rai Shahani, can be found in Bombay. His work had taken him to field telegraph offices in the north-west and to Bombay during the coronation season of 1911–12. The notice then records two books he had written in Sindhi. One was a novel about Hindu life in Sind that criticised social practices. In a list of technical appointments it would be easy to lose the novelist. Here the two occupations survive together, followed by a single address at the telegraph office in the Fort district.


NUR UDDIN, Khan Saheb, Munshi—was born on 1st January, 1852. He entered the service of the Government Telegraph Department in December, 1883, and has since been serving in that Department in various capacities such as Instructor, Telegraph Training Class, Lahore, on deputation to Frontier

Opening lines of Nur Uddin's entry on p. 128. The telegraph service records an instructor in Lahore before it follows him to the frontier offices. View original

Second Supplement, p. 128, Nur Uddin, and p. 170, Pritamdas Hukumat Rai Shahani.

Sarojini Naidu remembers an algebra problem

Sarojini Naidu's entry lets a subject speak for herself. A girl of eleven was struggling with algebra. The sum refused to come right, she remembered, and a poem came to her instead. Her father wanted her to pursue mathematics or science. Her mother had written lyrics in Bengali as a young woman. By preserving both details, the Lucknow account gives a family history to a moment that might otherwise sound like a charming legend of early genius.

The notice follows her from Hyderabad to studies in England and back to India. In 1914 its writer knew her as a poet and was already listening to her speak in public. In the portrait plate that follows, Naidu looks down at an open book. Her signature runs along the lower edge of the picture. Elsewhere it can be hard to tell how much a subject contributed to the account written about them. Here we have a recollection attributed to Naidu and a page on which she appears as a reader.



Prof. RAMMURTI NAIDU (142)

Mrs SAROJINI NAIDU (141)

The Press paired Professor Rammurti Naidu's portrait, at left, with a signed image of Sarojini Naidu reading. The plate follows printed page 142 in the 1914 Coronation Edition. View original

Second Supplement, pp. 141–142, Sarojini Naidu, and portrait plate following p. 142.

The Urdu readers of Meerut

Near the end of the volume a teacher's address, Oriental House, Meerut, closes a life spent working with words. Maulvi Muhammad Ismail had studied Persian and Arabic privately, entered the Education Department at sixteen and written a series of Urdu readers. The compiler credited their popularity to the care with which the lessons advanced in difficulty. Ismail had also edited the Meerut newspaper Najm-ul-Akhbar during the Russo-Japanese War. In retirement he continued to manage the girls' school he had founded.

His entry leads to a question the book cannot settle. Who were the children who first learnt to read Urdu from those lessons? The directory allows us to look up their teacher by name, follow his career across two pages and see which honour he received. His pupils survive here as a readership. Their schoolbooks would tell another part of the history that this Lucknow press put within reach.

Second Supplement, pp. 198–199, Muhammad Ismail. The alphabetical index follows the biographies. An asterisk beside a name in the index indicates that the volume includes a portrait.

Read the original scans

The original work fills two volumes. These four Internet Archive files retain the printed title pages, portrait plates and indexes. Printed page numbers and scan numbers differ.

1911 · Volume I

Edition de Luxe. The publisher's preface introduces the Urdu work that preceded the English directory. Turn the pages · Download the PDF

1911 · Volume II

Coronation Edition. The supplied transcription corresponds to this volume, which continues Part IV and includes the account of the Press. Turn the pages · Download the PDF

1912 · First Supplement

Popular Edition. The account of the royal visit is followed by biographies connected with the Delhi Durbar honours. Turn the pages · Download the PDF

1914 · Second Supplement

Coronation Edition. The June preface gives the chronology of all three publications. Turn the pages · Download the PDF

Selected pages from 1911

Read the publisher's preface on the Urdu predecessor · See the 1902 Urdu volume from Rampur Raza Library

Find a region in the contents of the 1911 work · Open the life of Sultan Jahan Begum

Read the eye specialist's entry · Find Ram Saran Das of Fyzabad

Follow Hira Lal's scholarship · Read Mazhar-ul-Haq's voyage from Bombay to Aden

Selected pages from 1914

1914 Coronation Edition title page · Printer's imprint and facing signed preface

Lucknow's Ganga Prasad Varma, pp. 62–63 · Prafulla Chandra Ray, pp. 87–88

Nur Uddin, p. 128 · Pritamdas Hukumat Rai Shahani, p. 170

Sarojini Naidu, pp. 141–142 · Muhammad Ismail, pp. 198–199

Go to the alphabetical index

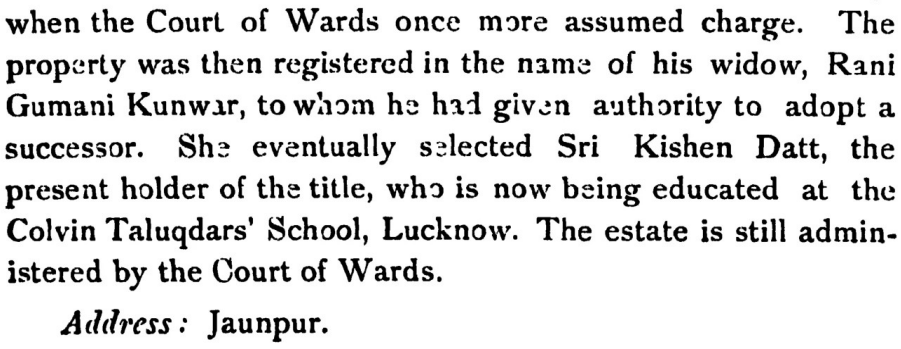
FROM THE COLLECTION / JAUNPUR AND LUCKNOW

The schoolboy Raja of Jaunpur

A reader looking for the Raja of Jaunpur in 1911 finds a boy at school in Lucknow. Sri Krishen Dutt Dube was born in 1896 and succeeded to the hereditary title in 1900. The Press lists 235 villages attached to his estate in Jaunpur and another 69 in Azamgarh. While he studied at Colvin Taluqdars' School, the Court of Wards managed the property.

The directory traces those holdings back to Sheo Lal Dube, a banker and revenue collector. On 3 November 1797 he received a sanad, a written grant, for the taluka of Badlapur. In the years that followed he enlarged the property by purchase.

A woman's decision explains why this boy appears under the title. After Raja Shankar Datt died in 1897, the estate was registered in the name of his widow, Rani Gumani Kunwar. She had authority to adopt a successor and selected him. Earlier in the same entry, the Press names two other women who had managed the estate, Rani Tilak Kunwar and Rani Sheo Kunwar.



when the Court of Wards once more assumed charge. The property was then registered in the name of his widow, Rani Gumani Kunwar, to whom he had given authority to adopt a successor. She eventually selected Sri Kishen Datt, the present holder of the title, who is now being educated at the Colvin Taluqdars' School, Lucknow. The estate is still administered by the Court of Wards.

Address: Jaunpur.

The closing lines name Rani Gumani Kunwar and the school in Lucknow. Volume I, Part IV, pp. 63–64. Open the entry · Read the continuation

Rani Nita Dube and the museum today

More than a century later, the connection between Jaunpur and Lucknow runs through Rani Nita Dube, née Bhargava. Her family identifies her as the present Rani (queen) of the erstwhile Jaunpur Riyasat. She is the promoter and Managing Director of Le Press and Chairperson of the proposed Newal Kishore Foundation. Her family credits her as the driving force behind the Munshi Newal Kishore Press Museum on the Lucknow campus where her ancestors published this directory.

In Jaunpur today, the names appear together at an educational institution. Raja Shri Krishna Datt Inter College has a Rani Neeta Kunwar auditorium. In November 2025, students and teachers gathered there for a seminar on the environment.

SOURCES The family supplied the present-day roles and Rani designation. Le Press museum · Amar Ujala, 8 March 2024 · Hindustan, 20 November 2025 · Museum vision, 2025

THE NEWUL KISHORE PRESS

The Newul Kishore Press, of Lucknow, with branches at Cawnpore and Lahore, is the largest Printing Establishment in the United Provinces, and one of the most extensive in the Indian Empire. Its Publishing Department is the largest in Asia, over four thousand works, on a great diversity of subjects, and in many languages, having been published there. The Press was founded in 1858 by the late Munshi Newul Kishore, C. I. E., who was the pioneer in vernacular publishing in Northern India, and was well known for his great public spirit and his generous benefactions towards objects of public importance. His policy, which has been continued by his son, Rai Bahadur Prag Narain Bhargava, the present Proprietor of the Press, was to assist the Government in its educational policy by preparing translations of the very best standard works in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian and English, and publishing them at very low prices, so that the best literature might be available for the youth of the country. In this way the Press has done not a little towards awakening and fostering loyal ideas and aims in the minds of the student population of the land, and may claim credit for putting a wholesome check on sedition by its dissemination of sound and loyal literature. In furtherance of these objects many thousands of rupees are spent every year by the Proprietor of the Newul Kishore Press. Founded, as it was, when Oudh was only just recovering from the direful effects of the Mutiny, and peace had not even been restored, the Newul Kishore Press was of the greatest assistance to the British Government in publishing and circulating correct views of public affairs of great importance. And it was not without difficulty that the enterprise of Munshi Newul Kishore was made a success from the very outset. There were no railways; the

Volume II, 1911 Coronation Edition. Unnumbered house notice after the general index. Enlarge the original page

whole of the Peninsula was in a disturbed state; yet the energetic founder contrived to bring all the type and machinery necessary from Calcutta, and with the aid and patronage of Sir Robert Montgomery, Chief Commissioner of Oudh, and Colonel Abbott, Commissioner of Lucknow, his efforts were crowned with success. In 1859 an English Newspaper was inaugurated by the Press, with the sole view of assisting Government in its difficult task of pacifying and settling the country: this was discontinued when there was no longer any necessity for its publication. Its place was taken, however, by a Vernacular Daily, the "Oudh Akhbar", which still holds a prominent place amongst the best vernacular journals of India. This newspaper has for its policy the dissemination of the correct versions of all current news, keeping the people informed on the questions of the day; the acts of Government and the reasons for such action; and administrative, public and social changes and improvements, with their objects. The "Oudh Akhbar" has been, and is, a power in the Provinces, and its voice has always been raised in behalf of measures, political or social, which are designed to benefit the people of the country: no journal has done more to promote loyalty and friendly relations between the rulers and the ruled.

M. Bishan Narain Bhargava, the son and heir of Rai Bahadur M. Prag Narain Bhargava, is not yet of age; he is being carefully educated by English and Indian tutors, and promises to be a worthy successor of his illustrious grandfather and accomplished father.

The Newul Kishore Press holds large contracts from Government, Native States, Indian Railways, etc., etc., and was awarded the highest prizes for Vernacular Printing and for Title-page Designing at the Allahabad Exhibition of 1910-1911. It possesses equipment of the latest type and is in a position to cope with the largest contracts as well as to execute the finest and most artistic job work for the general public.

Volume II, 1911 Coronation Edition. Unnumbered house notice after the general index. Enlarge the original page



MUNSHI PRAG NARAIN BHARGAVA R B
Proprietor N K Press



MUNSHI NEWUL KISHORE C I E
Founder of the Press



M BISHEN NARAIN BHARGAVA
Son and heir to Munshi Prag Narain Bhargava.

Prag Narain Bhargava, proprietor, at left. Munshi Newul Kishore, founder, in the centre. Bishen Narain Bhargava, son and heir of the proprietor, at right. The original caption uses this spelling of Bishen. View the portrait plate

CONTRIBUTION GALLERY / 1 OF 5

Inside the mills

Three mill owners and a steel pioneer appear in the Bombay section. The entries differ strikingly in what they count, from workers and spindles to the cost of equipping laboratories.

Sir Dorabji Tata

The 1911 notice calls Tata a senior partner of Tata, Sons and Company. Tata's company history supplies what the brief entry omits. In 1907 he and R. D. Tata established the Tata Iron and Steel Company to carry out Jamsetji Tata's steel project.

Later. In 1912, the first steel ingot came off the production line at the new works. The town of Sakchi later became Jamshedpur.

Volume II, Part VII, Bombay, p. 75 · Later institutional record

Sir Vithaldas Thackersey

Across five cotton mills the directory counted 5,553 workers, 132,604 spindles and 2,686 looms. Thackersey also served on the Factory Commission, visiting industrial towns in India and Burma to investigate conditions of labour.

Later. In 1920, his gift of fifteen lakh rupees to the women's university founded by Dhondo Keshav Karve commemorated his mother, Nathibai. The university took her name.

Volume II, Part VII, Bombay, pp. 75–76 · Later institutional record

Currimbhoy Ebrahim

The Press counted 8,000 workers in his mills and named opium among the goods his firm traded. A Khoja community orphanage educated about seventy children. Some continued their studies, while others found first jobs in his businesses.

Volume II, Part VII, Bombay, pp. 63–65

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir

Jehangir chaired three mills and helped provide the university with an examination hall. The book credits him with Rs 325,000 towards the hall and a separate gift of Rs 400,000 for science laboratories in the Bombay Presidency.

Volume II, Part VII, Bombay, pp. 62–63



Hon'ble Sir V. D. Thackersey (75) Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (62)

Vithaldas Thackersey and Cowasjee Jehangir, details from the printed Bombay portrait plate. Inspect the full leaf

CONTRIBUTION GALLERY / 2 OF 5

Schools and public institutions

A technical institute, a girls' school and a veterinary dispensary answer different local needs. Sometimes the useful detail in a biography is simply what the institution taught or whom it treated.

Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III

The Maharaja established Kala Bhavan at Baroda, where students studied subjects including mechanics, commerce and agriculture. The same part of the directory counted 62 girls' schools with a total of 6,436 pupils.

Later. In 1949, the institution founded in 1890 became the foundation of the new Maharaja Sayajirao University's Faculty of Technology and Engineering.

Volume I, Part I, Baroda, pp. 14–19 · Later institutional record

Kumar Rameswar Maliah

Maliah owned collieries in Burdwan and served as a municipal commissioner in Howrah. His contributions to the town included a veterinary dispensary, complementing his presidency of the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Volume II, Part VIII, Bengal, p. 61

Raghuraj Kumari

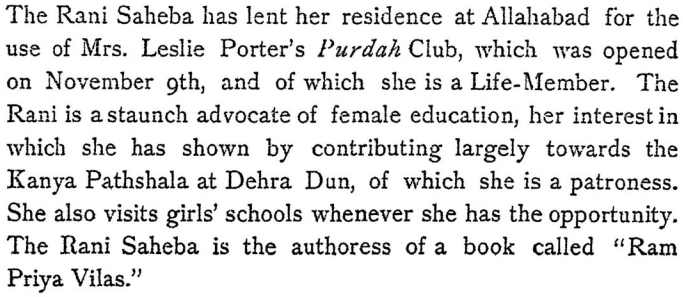
Raghuraj Kumari, also known as Rani Ram Priya, contributed Rs 3,500 towards Partabgarh's Lady Dufferin Hospital. A patron of the Kanya Pathshala at Dehra Dun, she also presided over women's conferences and lent her Allahabad house for a women's club.

Volume II, Part IV, United Provinces, pp. 92–93

Rauf Ahmed

Ahmed chaired the managing committee of the Government Boys' School in Mylapur. His entry names several poems in Persian and Urdu and an arithmetic book for schools. It gives the languages of the poems but leaves that of the textbook unspecified.

Volume I, Part II, Madras Presidency, p. 79



The Rani Saheba has lent her residence at Allahabad for the use of Mrs. Leslie Porter's *Purdah* Club, which was opened on November 9th, and of which she is a Life-Member. The Rani is a staunch advocate of female education, her interest in which she has shown by contributing largely towards the Kanya Pathshala at Dehra Dun, of which she is a patroness. She also visits girls' schools whenever she has the opportunity. The Rani Saheba is the authoress of a book called "Ram Priya Vilas."

Printed detail naming the Allahabad house, the Dehra Dun school and Ram Priya Vilas, p. 93. Examine the plate

CONTRIBUTION GALLERY / 3 OF 5

Relief work from Jaipur to Kangra

Look at how each account assigns responsibility. One woman subscribed money to famine relief. A lawyer went to the scene of an earthquake. A benefactor made a classroom of his own house.

Maharani Jadanjei

The Maharani of Jaipur's two gifts belong to her, even though they appear in her husband's biography. She gave Rs 1,00,000 to the famine fund on the occasion of the 1903 Delhi Durbar and a further Rs 1,00,000 on a visit by the Princess of Wales.

Volume I, Part I, Jaipur, pp. 65–66

Lala Lajpat Rai

In response to the Kangra earthquake of 1905, Lajpat Rai raised funds, visited the worst-affected areas and supervised relief for the Lahore Arya Samaj. The same page describes his role as honorary secretary and vice-president of Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College.

Volume I, Part III, Punjab, pp. 61–63

Ganga Ram

The three-line entry identifies Lahore's executive engineer but lists no buildings. The later institutional account of his career credits him with work on Lahore's civic buildings and irrigation experiments at Gangapur. His hospital belongs to the next decade.

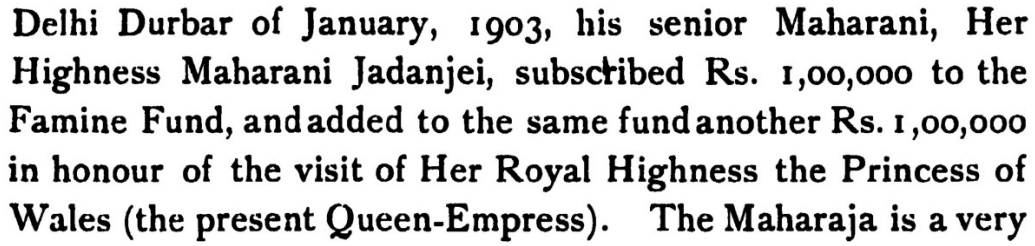
Later. In 1921 he founded the hospital in Lahore's walled city. Its medical university preserves the account of its beginnings.

Volume I, Part III, Punjab, p. 70 · Sir Ganga Ram Hospital · engineering and irrigation · Fatima Jinnah Medical University · hospital history

Mohammad Abdul Majid

An Arabic school operated in Majid's house in Jaunpur, where he met the students' costs. The 1911 account also credits the barrister and his father with paying for the restoration of old mosques in the city.

Volume II, Part IV, United Provinces, pp. 116–117



Delhi Durbar of January, 1903, his senior Maharani, Her Highness Maharani Jadanjei, subscribed Rs. 1,00,000 to the Famine Fund, and added to the same fund another Rs. 1,00,000 in honour of the visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales (the present Queen-Empress). The Maharaja is a very

The first lines of printed p. 66 credit both subscriptions to Maharani Jadanjei. Examine the plate

CONTRIBUTION GALLERY / 4 OF 5

Changing the rules of public life

Municipal law, a trading tax and a proposal for a university could all affect the lives of people whose names never appeared in the directory.

Pherozeshah Mehta

Mehta helped secure passage of the Bombay Municipal Act of 1888, shaping the city corporation's powers and responsibilities. His biography remembers his rigorous scrutiny of public spending and the audiences that followed his annual budget speeches.

Volume II, Part VII, Bombay, pp. 67–69

V. P. Madhava Rao

Diwan of Travancore and subsequently of Mysore, Madhava Rao helped establish a legislative council in Mysore. The directory also credits his efforts with remission of a tax on the supari, or areca-nut, trade.

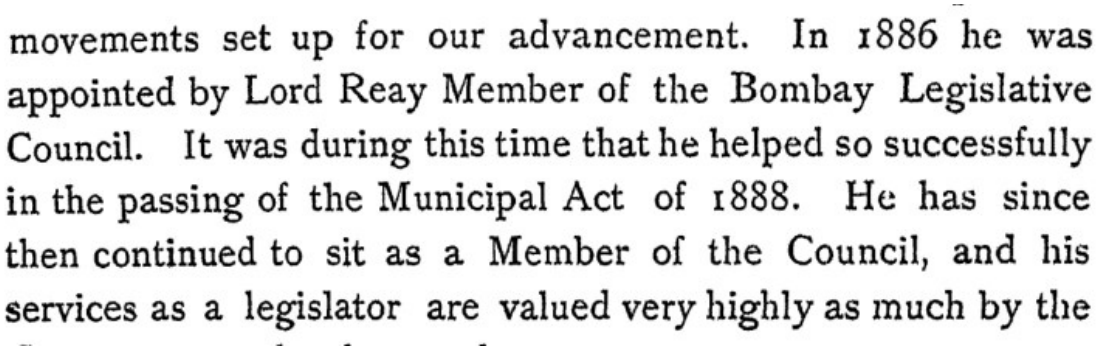
Volume I, Part I, Officials, pp. 148–149

Aga Khan III

Aga Khan III helped finance postgraduate study in Europe and toured with a deputation raising funds for a university at Aligarh. His 1911 entry records the work of persuasion while the university was still a proposal.

Later. When Aligarh Muslim University was established in 1920, Sultan Jahan Begum became its first chancellor and the Aga Khan its first pro-chancellor.

Volume II, Part VII, Bombay, pp. 66–67 · Aligarh Muslim University · the founding officers



movements set up for our advancement. In 1886 he was appointed by Lord Reay Member of the Bombay Legislative Council. It was during this time that he helped so successfully in the passing of the Municipal Act of 1888. He has since then continued to sit as a Member of the Council, and his services as a legislator are valued very highly as much by the

The printed passage credits Mehta with helping the Municipal Act through the council. Examine the plate

CONTRIBUTION GALLERY / 5 OF 5

Calcutta teaches and experiments

A physicist, a judge and a musician each had to find a way for others to learn. Their tools included laboratory apparatus, university administration and musical notation.

Jagadish Chandra Bose

Jagadish Chandra Bose designed instruments for investigating the reflection, refraction and polarisation of electric waves. In the same entry the list of his published work turns to experiments on plant responses.

Later. In 1917 he founded Bose Institute in Calcutta as a centre for scientific research.

Volume II, Part VIII, Bengal, p. 57 · Bose Institute · history of its founder

Ashutosh Mukherjee

A mathematician, judge and vice-chancellor, Mukherjee served on the Universities Commission in 1902. In 1908 he received time away from the Calcutta High Court so that he could work on reorganising the University of Calcutta.

Volume II, Part VIII, Bengal, pp. 48–50

Sourindro Mohun Tagore

Sourindro Mohun Tagore founded the Bengal Music School in 1871 and the Bengal Academy of Music in 1881. The account says he continued to finance and guide both and describes his own system of musical notation.

Volume II, Part VIII, Bengal, pp. 12–13



RAJA SIR SOURINDRA MOHAN TAGORE (12)

Sourindra Mohan Tagore at left on the original Bengali portrait plate. Here the other portrait is cropped out. Examine the plate